

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

June 7, 2005

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines calls for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Porter.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Karl Beisel, 116 Everett Street, Manchester stated:

I was recently elected as a member of the Executive Committee or the Executive Board of the Concerned Taxpayer's of Manchester and I am also in the process of leading a citizen initiative to pass a spending cap Charter amendment here in Manchester. I am here tonight to bring this effort to your attention. I feel that the City's budget has risen too fast, as do other members of the Concerned Taxpayers. To pay for this ever-growing government our property taxes have risen dramatically over the years. Unfortunately, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen have not seen fit to keep spending under control. There is a solution that has worked in communities and states throughout the nation and that is a spending cap provision that limits spending increases in the budget to the rate of inflation or less as defined by the CPI, the consumer price index. Basically the details of this proposed amendment include a provision to override the spending limit as is common in these kinds of measures with a $\frac{3}{4}$ super majority of the Board of Aldermen. I believe that this super majority requirement is very appropriate. The higher taxes brought about by higher spending are paid by all taxpayers, not just those who feel the budget should be higher and the taxes should be higher. I think that it is perfectly appropriate that there needs to be a broader consensus among the Board of Aldermen whenever taxes and spending are increased. Concerned Taxpayers of

Manchester is working to place this amendment on the ballot for this November and so far we have 2,000 signatures, which is roughly halfway to our goal. If anyone is interested in signing the petition or helping to collect signatures I would like to invite you to visit the website for Concerned Taxpayers and that is Manchestertaxpayers.org. There you can find out more information about the amendment, including information on how you can help get us more signatures. If you don't have access to the Internet and would like to learn more about Concerned Taxpayer's, the next meeting is on June 20 at 7 PM at McNeil's Banquet Hall. The address is 837 Second Street. Thank you.

Jeff Kassel, 22 Appleton Street, Manchester stated:

I, too, am involved in the spending cap project here in town. I wanted to do a little informal report for the Aldermen. I also want to encourage anyone to contact me if they would like to help with this effort. My address is JeffKassel@comcast.net and my telephone number is 668-1979. It has been a real education talking to thousands of people in this town about the spending cap and about spending in this City. Sometimes their language is a little colorful. I think most Aldermen do not get to talk to thousands of people and I would urge you to join our organization to do that. Unfortunately we have approached a number of Aldermen and not even one has signed the petition to get this on the ballot – not one and of course the Mayor has not signed either. The elected officials don't seem to want to give the people a chance to express their view about spending in this City. I would like to encourage anyone who is watching now or is interested in this project to get involved. Karl gave you the taxpayer website address and you have my e-mail address and my telephone number. About 70% of the people that we approach who listen to the pitch sign the petition. That is a pretty good record. We don't think there is going to be any problem getting this on the ballot. We also don't think there is going to be much of a problem winning this referendum in the election. We think it will be overwhelmingly approved. People are really tired of the spending in the City. We just wanted to keep you up-to-date and we wanted to encourage any Aldermen to give me a call and sign our petition and join the army of tax fighters in this City.

Keith Hirschmann, 296 Dunbarton Road, Manchester stated:

I am a State Representative for Wards 10, 11 and 12. Tomorrow is an important day in Concord for Manchester and the whole state but I would like to talk about City business tonight. What brought me here to City Hall tonight was the reading of an exclusive possible contract for a development deal in Manchester. In all of the years that I was an Alderman I believed in the RFP process. For the voters and taxpayers of this City I think that the best deals are always struck when there are public hearings and public debate and public input and when as many people can come to the plate and swing as possible. We have local developers who are doing a good job and we have some inside people developing Manchester Place that have come into town and are doing a good job. What I would like to see is the best of both worlds. I would like to see people like Brady Sullivan and Gamache Enterprises and people like Anagnost Companies and people like Mr. Dacy and Mr. Silvestri

all have an equal chance to come to the plate and give you something in writing. If there is a big deal that is going to happen in Manchester everyone should be able to show Manchester what is on their mind and give Manchester the best thing possible. Any exclusive rights or any exclusive deals I am totally against and I would think that the voters would look badly on that and frown on that. I would also like to see a policy adopted that when there are development projects contracted for that an ordinance is put forth about campaign contributions. During the last baseball deal there were some envelopes passed around and I understand they were passed back eventually but I don't think that is right and I don't think the voters are looking for that kind of thing out of City Hall. I understand that I am saying some pretty tough cutting things but as an Alderman I always brought the truth to the table and I will continue to do so and I expect the best out of all of you. That is it.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Forest it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

Alderman Porter stated we have a guest here, another outstanding citizen of Ward 6, Matty Boire. I would like to introduce his mother Paula and his brother. Matty is here tonight...he is a first class ranked Boy Scout with Troop 135. He is working on his Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge and it is a required badge as he works toward attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Part of the requirements for this badge include having an understanding of the local City government structure and that is the reason that he is here tonight. I want to congratulate Matty and wish him the best of luck.

Mayor Baines stated welcome Matty. As I said earlier I am an honorary member of that troop. I think they are an Eagle Scout factory – Troop 135. Steve Tellier is here and Hank Thibault and they have both been very involved in that troop through the years. It is a great organization that you are part of and I am very proud that you are still at it with scouting. It is something that you will always treasure that you have stayed in scouting all of these years. I stayed in scouting all through high school as well so I urge you to stick with it and be very proud of it.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Roy it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk